



**BEST Program:**  
**University-District Partnership in Induction, Mentoring,**  
**Professional Development and Teacher Leadership**  
*Arizona State University*

The BEST Program is a comprehensive teacher induction, mentoring and professional development program, which includes six components: BEST for Beginning Educators, BEST Standards in Teaching, BEST for Mentor Teachers, BEST Visitation Coaching BEST Teacher Leadership and a pilot Administrator support component. BEST is a nationally-recognized program, receiving a Distinguished Program in Teacher Education award from the Association of Teacher Educators. BEST has partnered with 34 districts in Arizona, and totaling over 90 districts nationally. All BEST program components have been field-tested in diverse settings, researched for ongoing program development, analyzed for effectiveness and aligned with developmentally appropriate teacher needs. BEST curriculum with embedded assessments provides district specific feedback for continuous program effectiveness.

The comprehensive program differentiates professional development for teachers throughout their lifecycle of teaching. In every program component an emphasis is placed on the assessment of aligning teaching practice to the outcomes of student standards. Support is provided for beginning teachers and mentors by developmentally-aligned seminars throughout the school year, one-to-one beginning teacher/mentor interactions and choice activities that relate to the context of their teaching and school community. The Standards Component provides learning opportunities to increase competence in teaching in all teaching standard areas through the following: reflection, goal-setting, assessment, documentation of practice, portfolio development and video analysis. The Visitation Component provides district visitation coach support through personalized need assessments, classroom observations, conferences, model lessons, co-teaching opportunities, data collection and professional growth goal-setting. BEST Teacher Leadership fosters teacher leaders embedded within districts, facilitating the program's implementation and impacting the professional culture of teacher growth. The goal of the pilot Administrator support component is to maximize the leadership capacity to provide quality support and professional development, in addition to collaborating with teacher leaders and other administrators. Visit the BEST website for more information, <http://coe.asu.edu/best>

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